



BOROUGH OF BLYTH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1962

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE

BLYTH

NORTHUMBERLAND



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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR BREADIN

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1962

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	A. DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector</i> ...	G. A. GILL, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.	
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector</i>	W. ALLAN, M.A.P.H.I.	
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector</i>	R. CHEETHAM, M.A.P.H.I.	
<i>Clerk</i> ...	...	V. COLPITTS
<i>Shorthand Typist</i> ...	...	M. HOPE
<i>Rodent Officer</i> ...	...	B. WADE

BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1962

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough during the year 1962.

The figures of the Registrar General show that the population of Blyth continues to rise. It increased by 430 to 36,400. Live births increased by 27 to 629 giving a birth rate (uncorrected) of 17.2 per 1,000 population. The infant deaths rose by 2 to 15 giving an increased Infant Mortality rate of 23.8 per 1,000 live births. Ten of these deaths occurred in the first month of life and 6 were under 1 week.

The number of deaths rose by 20 to 361 giving a crude death rate of 9.9 per 1,000 population.

There were 88 notifications of infectious disease, which included 26 cases of measles, 26 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 20 cases of whooping cough. There was one imported case of food poisoning.

During 1962 a considerable improvement in the caravan situation occurred. The unlicensed site at Bebside was cleared after court action had been taken under the 1960 Caravan Act, but there are still one or two caravans in the borough without planning permission. Although the attention of the Planning Authority and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was drawn to this, no action has been taken against these offenders by the County Council.

There was a set-back to the question of introducing a smoke control area at Seaton Sluice and pursuing a steady policy of dealing with the borough over a period of years. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government were able to guarantee a supply of smokeless fuel suitable only for burning in open standing stoves. This increased the total cost both to householders and the local authority. It was felt that it was unfair to impose such rigid conditions, and the Health Committee postponed the scheme indefinitely.

Plans are being prepared to pipe and pump sewage from the Gordon Road area of the town to the sewage disposal unit at Cowpen. This will eliminate all the outfalls to the open beach. Outfalls will still exist between the South harbour and Cowpen Quay— a project which will require to be tackled at a later date.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their interest and support, and my colleagues in other departments who have been most co-operative. The Health Department staff are to be complimented in having accomplished a considerable programme in spite of staff shortages due to illness.

Special thanks to Mr. Wade for his unfailing cheerfulness in his pest control work and care of the mortuary. These are specialised occupations not sought after by many, and their importance to the Borough should not be forgotten.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER DONALDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

CARAVANS

There is a place for the caravan for holiday accommodation. It is mobile, reasonably inexpensive and enjoyed by children. There is a need, therefore, for permanent holiday caravan sites for use in the good weather months. These sites should provide modern amenities—good standing, toilets, showers, hot and cold water, etc.

There is a place for the caravan for a person whose employment takes him around the country on engineering or building projects, but there should be no need for a local authority to provide a permanent site for such people. This should be taken care of by the organisation for whom he works. In large projects it is a simple matter to erect office buildings, canteens etc., and a caravan site should be a “must” in future.

There is no place for the caravan as a permanent dwelling for the average family especially where children are involved. Yet many people turn to the caravan as a cheap method of obtaining their own private accommodation. They do this in spite of the fact that buying a caravan is expensive and its value depreciates very quickly. Hiring a caravan can be even more expensive and there is nothing to show for it at the end. Given the opportunity, there are few permanent family caravanners who would not jump at the chance of a traditional house.

I may be wrong, but I cannot see this vogue for the caravan home persisting where there is a sufficiency of traditional houses. With this in mind it is difficult, therefore, to advise the building of permanent caravan sites. The cost of a properly constructed and equipped site is almost the same as for a housing estate—it is not cheap. An authority undertaking such a scheme must hope to recover its capital outlay, and this means that rents are quite expensive. This is the case where the plans are based on the model standards recommended by the Ministry.

Experience has shown that these standards are not high enough for the Planning Authorities, who are attaching conditions to planning applications which make the provision of a permanent site an economic impossibility.

Blyth has had its fair share of unauthorised caravan sites and has been criticised for its attitude towards them. It is not generally realised that a single caravan on a site which has not had planning approval or a site licence, very quickly develops into an unsightly conglomeration of caravans, huts and shacks. Because the site is illegal no one is responsible for its maintenance or for the provision of the basic necessities for such a community, and no one can enforce them. I refuse to accept the responsibility for the health or hygienic standards for such a community, and prosecution of the person responsible is the only answer. The unauthorised caravan community must move elsewhere.

Why does not Blyth provide a caravan site? The answer is that Blyth has tried to obtain more than one site but there have been planning difficulties. This authority is still awaiting the results of County Planning negotiations for a municipal site. However, even if these are successful, there is still the difficulty about standards, and the County Planning Authority's standards are much higher than those required by the Ministry and naturally the costs are greater. If the Planning Authority wish to obtain the co-operation of district authorities on this matter there will have to be a considerable relaxation of their requirements.

I see no reason why the Planning Authority should not agree on a suitable site and then leave the lay-out entirely to the district authority. Although the latter are not required to have a licence, they would be very foolish if they adopted standards for themselves which were lower than the recommended ones.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, has been useful to Local Authorities who have to deal with permanent or holiday caravan sites, because it lays down specific conditions which can be enforced.

DISABLED PERSONS

In 1960 two special bungalows were occupied by families where some gross disability existed and wheel chairs or walking aids were used.

In 1961 a two room flat was adapted for a disabled housewife while it was being built. Some of the features were sliding doors, easily accessible gas and electric points,

and a specially adapted kitchen. The front door was provided with a ramp and the corridors enlarged as much as possible.

In 1962 a group of four two-room flats were adapted,—again after the initial plans had been made. All four form the lower flats of maisonettes. The usual standard alterations were made, but further experiments were carried out by having different modes of heating installed.

There were two flats with traditional solid fuel fires; one flat was heated by electric underfloor heating in the hall and living room, installed during construction and automatically coming into operation during the off-peak periods 12 noon to 3.0 p.m. and 10.0 p.m. to 7.0 a.m. In addition, electric heaters manually operated are fixed in the living room, bedroom and kitchen. The other flat is heated by a hot ducted air method, the air being heated by gas. The heat exchange unit is housed under a bench in the kitchen and air from it is conveyed by fan through ducts into the living room, bedroom, kitchen and hall. The temperature is controlled by a thermostat fixed in the living room, which is easily adjusted to ensure the required amount of heat. It is also possible to cut off the supply of heat to any particular room, and a switch beside the bed allows the heating to be controlled prior to rising in the morning.

Since the occupation, which was 4th December for the gas ducted air flat and the 28th November for the electric flat, thermometer readings have been taken weekly, inside and outside each flat, together with gas and electric meter readings (the heating systems are separately metered). These results have enabled the cost and efficiency of the two methods to be compared. The period when these readings were taken was from the 4th December, 1962, to the 30th January, 1963, and the results are tabled below.

	Outside Air Temperature	Room Temperature	
		Flat A. Gas 'Duct-Air' Heating	Flat B. Electric Floor Heating
Maximum	60 F.	75 F.	57 F.
Minimum	20 F.	50 F.	46 F.
Weekly Cost		17/9	22/-.

I am grateful to the Borough Engineer for supplying this information, carrying out these tests and allowing me to reproduce these facts in my Annual Report. It would appear that during the extremely cold spell, weekly costs are 17/9d. for gas and 22/- for electric, but a much higher temperature is obtained from gas. I would imagine that, over the twelve month period, costs for one week for gas would be something like 12/6d. The tenants of the gas ducted air house are extremely happy with the heating installation.

As a result of these experiments it has been recommended that four additional flats should be built, but this time special consideration should be given for manipulating a wheel chair—especially in the corridors and bathroom. This may be possible, as building has not yet commenced. The heating recommended is to be ducted hot air (gas fuel) and a strong recommendation is being made to have at least the living room windows double glazed. I would like to see all windows of these flats double glazed, but perhaps this is asking too much at the present time. The saving in running costs for heating should be substantial.

I strongly advocate that all future houses should have the majority of windows double glazed. The winter of 1962/63 has proved beyond all doubt how important is the need for heat conservation. Let Blyth be the pioneer in introducing this commonsense innovation in houses built under their jurisdiction.

Also in 1962 a four-bedroom parlour type house was made available for a wheel chair paraplegic. The downstairs accommodation was converted to provide a separate bedroom and bathroom (the latter containing bath, water closet and wash basin). The bathroom door was of the sliding type. The front door had a ramped approach. This conversion produced a satisfactory suite of rooms suitable for a disabled person.

The question of baths for old or disabled people has given rise to much discussion between myself, Borough Engineer and Health Visitors. It is felt that the ordinary bath and the three-quarter-stepped bath are unsuitable. The bath with the cut-away front is a possibility, but there always remains the difficulty of standing up and getting out of the bath. I have recommended a shower cabinet with a stool which can be attached to the wall to ensure

steadiness. The shower to be about 30 inches from the floor and provided with a flexy arm so that the whole procedure of wetting, soaping, washing and showering can be accomplished while sitting down.

There may be opposition to this, but it will come from the old generation and will require to be dealt with from an educational point of view. I am strongly of the opinion that baths can constitute a very dangerous hazard in old age. The shower allows greater freedom for the use of a wheel chair in the bath room and this, to many, is important.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA 1962

<i>Area</i> —No Change	<i>Acreage</i> —6,487.
<i>Population</i> —(Registrar-General's Estimate)	36,400
<i>Rate Value</i> —(1st April, 1962)	£351,611
<i>Product of a Penny Rate</i> (estimated)	£1,390
<i>Total number of Dwellinghouses in Borough</i> — (1st April, 1962)	11,251

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Comparability Factor—Births 1.00. Deaths 1.28.

	1962	1961
Total Live Births	629	602
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (uncorrected)	17.2	16.7
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (standardised)	17.2	16.7
Still Births	12	8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births	18.7	13.1
Total live and still births	641	610
Infant Deaths	15	13
Neo-Natal Deaths	10	11
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	23.8	21.5
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legiti- mate live births	20.0	22.5
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegi- timate live births	Nil	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Death under four weeks per 1,000 live births)	15.9	18.2
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under one week per 1,000 live births)	9.5	14.9

No. of Deaths under one week	1962 6.0	1961 9.0
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and still births)	28	27.8
Illegitimate live births	29	25
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.6	4.1
Maternal Deaths	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	Nil
Total deaths	361	341
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population	9.9	9.4
Standardised death rate per 1,000 home population	12.6	12.0
Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 home population	0.08	0.06

			Live Births		Still Births		Infant Deaths Under 4 Weeks		Infant Deaths Under 1 Week	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	316	313	9	3	6	4	4	2
Legitimate	.....	.....	301	299	9	3	6	4	4	2
Illegitimate	....	....	15	14	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
No of live births	618	638	585	624	610	608	712	627	602	629
No. of deaths	335	354	357	370	348	365	371	381	341	361
Excess of births over deaths	283	284	228	254	262	243	341	246	261	268

Causes of Death, 1962

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3
147	Malignant Neoplasm of Hypopharynx ...	1	—	1
151	" " " Stomach	4	7	11
154	" " " Rectum	1	1	2
155	" " " Liver (primary) ...	2	2	4
155.1	" " " Common Bile Duct	1	—	1
156	" " " Pancreas	1	—	1
162	" " " Bronchus and Lung	25	6	31
170	" " " Breast	—	6	6
171	" " " Cervix Uteri	—	4	4
175	" " " Ovary	—	2	2
176	" " " Vulva	—	2	2
176.1	" " " Vagina	—	2	2
177	" " " Prostate	2	—	2
180	" " " Kidney	—	1	1
181	" " " Bladder	4	—	4
193	" " " Brain	1	2	3

Causes of Death, 1962—continued

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
196.4	Malignant Neoplasm of Humerus ...	1	—	1
196.7	.. .. Fibula ...	—	1	1
200	Lymphosarcoma of Abdominal Glands ...	1	—	1
201	Hodgkin's Disease	—	1	1
203	Multiple Myelomata	—	2	2
204	Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia ...	1	—	1
204.1	Myeloid Leukaemia	1	2	3
241	Asthma	—	1	1
260	Diabetes Mellitus	—	1	1
330	Subarachnoid Haemorrhage ...	2	1	3
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage	12	10	22
332	Cerebral Embolism or Thrombosis ...	10	15	25
345	Disseminated Sclerosis	2	—	2
420	Arteriosclerosis	1	—	1
420.1	Coronary Artery Thrombosis ...	42	32	74
420.2	Angina Pectoris	—	1	1
422	Cardio-Vascular Degeneration ...	9	4	13
422.2	Cardio-Vascular Degeneration with Senility	1	4	5
433	Auricular Fibrillation	3	1	4
434.1	Congestive Heart Failure	10	13	23
434.2	Left Ventricular Failure	11	9	20
434.4	Cor Pulmone	4	—	4
445	Malignant Hypertension	1	—	1
450.1	Arteriosclerosis with Gangrene ...	2	—	2
451	Aortic Aneurysm	1	—	1
455	Gangrene Unspecified	—	1	1
465	Pulmonary Embolism	2	3	5
480	Influenza with Pneumonia	—	1	1
490	Lobar Pneumonia	1	2	3
491	Broncho-Pneumonia	5	7	12
492	Acute Atypical Pneumonia	1	—	1
502	Chronic Bronchitis	4	—	4
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia	1	1	2
540	Gastric Ulcer	2	1	3
541.1	Perforated Duodenal Ulcer	1	1	2
550.1	Acute Appendicitis with Perforation ...	1	—	1
576	Peritonitis	—	1	1
581	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	1	—	1
600	Pyelonephritis	—	1	1
715	Decubitus Ulcers	1	—	1
744.1	Pseudohypertrophic Muscular Dystrophy	1	—	1
754	Congenital Heart Disease	3	2	5
756.2	Congenital Defect Digestive System ...	1	—	1
757.3	Congenital Absence of Bladder	1	1	2
760	Intracranial Birth Injury	1	—	1
760.5	Intracranial Birth Injury with Prematurity	1	—	1
762.5	Atelectasis with Prematurity	—	1	1
775	Cardiac Failure with Prematurity ...	1	—	1
776	Prematurity	1	—	1
792	Uraemia	3	2	5
E 825	Motor Accident Unspecified	1	—	1
E 871	Barbiturate Poisoning	1	—	1
E 902	Fall from Staging	1	—	1
E 929	Accidental Drowning	2	—	2
E 970	Suicide by Barbiturate Poisoning ...	—	1	1
E 972	Suicide by Coal Gas Poisoning	1	—	1
E 974	Suicide by Hanging	1	—	1
N 949	Burns	—	1	1
		199	162	361
	Deaths over 65 years of age	119	119	238
	Deaths 1-4 years inclusive	1	3	4

INFANT MORTALITY

There were fifteen deaths of infants under 1 year during 1962. This is two more than last year and gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 23.8 per 1,000 live births. This would appear to indicate a retrogression. While this may well be so, an analysis of the deaths reveals that only five of these infant deaths were older than 1 month, and of these, one was premature and two died from congenital defects. Six deaths were under seven days old.

It is interesting to note the changing pattern in causes of death of infants. In the years 1923 and 1931 there were fifteen different causes of death—of course there were more deaths, 87 and 49 respectively, but no longer do we find Marasmus, Infant Debility, Gastric Catarrh, Rickets, Measles, Whooping Cough, Malnutrition or Tuberculous Meningitis. The main causes of death today are Cerebral Haemorrhage (invariably due to birth injury), congenital defects and prematurity or a combination of these.

Deaths occur quite frequently within minutes or hours of birth and not so long ago these would undoubtedly have failed to survive even that short time, and would have been recorded as still births.

It would appear that the number of infant deaths due to congenital conditions as a percentage of total births has varied very little—just around 1%. Taken as a percentage of infant deaths, however, it shows a marked increase. This is no doubt due to the fact that death from other causes has decreased in proportion. Some of the congenital defects must be due to normal genetic mutation, but is this the only reason? It may be suggested that some of the congenital malformations have been brought about by increased radiation or by drugs. More care is being taken in the use of X-rays than ever before and this applies especially to the early months of pregnancy. A great deal more research is required to be done before the problem of the cause of congenital abnormalities is finally settled.

Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates for the Ten Years 1953-1962

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Infant Deaths	18	11	21	11	12	23	16	10	13	15
Infant Mortality Rate	29.1	17.2	35.8	17.6	19.5	37.8	22.4	15.9	21.5	23.8

Causes of Infant Deaths

No.	Cause	Sex	Where Death Occurred	Age	Avoidable or Not
1	Congenital Bladder Defect ...	M	Hospital	2 weeks	Not
2	Broncho-Pneumonia ...	F	Hospital	2 months	Yes
3	Congenital Renal Defect ...	F	Hospital	2 months	Not
4	Congenital Heart Disease ...	M	Hospital	2 weeks	Not
5	Appendix Abscess ...	M	Hospital	9 months	Yes
6	Cardiac Failure with Prematurity ...	M	Hospital	1 month	Not
7	Cerebral Haemorrhage with Prematurity ...	M	Hospital	2 days	Not
8	Congenital Heart Disease ...	M	Hospital	7 months	Not
9	Atelectasis with Prematurity	F	Hospital	4 hours	Not
10	Cerebral and Pulmonary Haemorrhage ...	F	Hospital	8 hours	Not
11	Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	M	Hospital	2 days	Not
12	Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula	M	Hospital	6 days	Not
13	Congenital Heart Disease ...	F	Hospital	1 week	Not
14	Burns ...	F	Hospital	13 days	Yes
15	Prematurity ...	M	Hospital	1 day	Not

Year	Still Births	Deaths under 1 week	Perinatal Deaths (Still Births and Deaths under 1 wk.)	Deaths under 1 month	Deaths under 1 year
1962	12	6	18	10	15
1961	8	9	17	11	13
1960	18	4	22	6	10
1959	13	9	22	12	16
1958	15	16	31	16	23
1957	19	4	23	7	12
1956	16	10	26	10	11
1955	19	14	33	15	21

Year	Total Live Births	Total Infant Deaths	Total Infant Deaths from Congenital Defects	Infant Deaths due to Congenital defects as	
				% of Total Live Births	% of Infant Deaths
1923	865	92	8	0.9	8.7
1931	591	49	4	0.6	8.0
1932	608	26	—	—	—
1933	574	45	5	0.87	11.1
1951	674	21	8	1.2	38
1952	618	11	1	0.16	9
1953	618	18	5	0.8	27
1961	602	13	4	0.6	30
1962	629	15	6	0.9	40

CHANGING PATTERN OF CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	Prematurity	Congenital Defects	Marasmus	Infant Debility	Gastric Catarrh	Convulsions	Rickets	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Respiratory Disorders	Measles	Whooping Cough	Meningitis	Infant Diarrhoea	Malnutrition	Tuberculous Meningitis	Influenza	Asphyxia	Birth Injury	Others	Total Deaths	Total causes of Death	
1923	23	8	8	6	4	5	1	8	12	—	5	5	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	92	15
1931	6	4	2	3	5	—	1	6	8	—	1	2	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	6	49	15
1932	4	—	—	3	4	5	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	26	8
1933	8	5	—	3	6	3	—	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	45	9	
1941	15	12	—	—	—	—	—	4	13	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	48	5
1942	3	4	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	1	4	23	8	
1943	10	6	—	1	—	4	—	2	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	39	10	
1951	4	8	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	7	
1952	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	11	6	
1953	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	18	5	
1961	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	13	5	
1962	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	15	5	

Deaths 1953-1962 (1-4 years)

Year	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	Total
1953	1	—	2	1	4
1954	4	—	—	1	5
1955	—	—	1	—	1
1956	—	—	—	—	—
1957	—	—	—	—	—
1958	—	—	—	—	—
1959	—	—	—	1	1
1960	—	—	—	—	—
1961	—	—	—	—	—
1962	1	—	1	2	4

Deaths, 1962

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Number of Deaths each month	31	32	40	30	16	33	27	20	28	30	36	38	361

TUBERCULOSIS, 1962

There were 26 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 non-pulmonary cases notified during 1962. This is a decrease of 4 pulmonary and one non-pulmonary from 1961. This means that the downward trend is being continued, especially as four of the cases notified came from one family.

In spite of the fact that 5 male cases and 3 female cases were under 20 years of age there is a definite indication that cases are now coming from older age groups. This is probably most noticeable in the under 35 years and over 35 years groups. The table showing the comparison of the percentages of these groups to the total cases notified in the years 1950-1962 confirms this as far as Blyth is concerned.

For several years now I have been urging practitioners to do everything possible to have their "chronic bronchitics" of the 55-plus age group thoroughly investigated. If they decline to have a chest X-ray, a sputum should be taken for examination (direct smear and culture). I feel sure that the over 55 years age group is the main reservoir of tuberculous infection.

There may be good reason to believe that the B.C.G. campaign which began in schools for the negative reactors, and at clinics for contacts, is beginning to make itself felt and may be the main reason for the decrease in the number of cases found in the younger age groups.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1962

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-10	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-20	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
21-25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
31-35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-40	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
41-45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-50	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-55	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
56-60	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
61-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	12	14	1	1	2	1	—	—
Grand Totals	26		2		3		—	

Tuberculosis Register, 31st December, 1962

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTALS Pulm. and Non-Pulm.
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	
Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1961	178	18	192	38	426
Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1962	140	14	139	35	328

TUBERCULOSIS, 1953-1962

Year			All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year	Number of T.B. Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1953	...	...	73	14	0.40
1954	...	...	49	8	0.23
1955	...	...	72	6	0.17
1956	...	...	52	7	0.20
1957	...	...	44	7	0.20
1958	...	...	19	3	0.08
1959	...	...	40	4	0.11
1960	...	...	27	2	0.06
1961	...	...	33	2	0.06
1962	...	...	28	3	0.08

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Case Rate per 1,000 Population

1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
14.2	13.9	15.2	14.7	15.2	13.3	11.7	10.8	10.2	7.6

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

	Total Cases notified			Total Cases under 35 yrs. notified			% of under 35 yrs. cases to total cases			Total Cases over 35 yrs.			% of over 35 yrs. cases to total cases		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1950	39	45	84	27	40	67	69	89	80	12	5	17	31	11	20
1951	51	37	88	33	29	62	65	78	70	18	8	26	35	22	30
1952	45	51	96	26	40	66	58	78	69	19	11	30	42	22	31
1953	32	30	62	19	27	46	59	90	74	13	3	16	41	10	26
1954	26	18	44	15	16	31	58	89	70	11	2	13	42	11	30
1955	23	46	69	11	33	44	48	72	64	12	13	25	52	28	36
1956	26	20	46	18	18	36	69	90	78	8	2	10	31	10	22
1957	16	20	36	5	13	18	31	65	50	11	7	18	69	35	50
1958	8	6	14	4	5	9	50	83	64	4	1	5	50	17	36
1959	13	19	32	6	15	21	46	79	66	7	4	11	54	21	34
1960	13	10	23	5	5	10	38	50	44	8	5	13	62	50	56
1961	19	11	30	6	3	9	32	27	30	13	8	21	68	73	70
1962	12	14	26	6	7	13	50	50	50	6	7	13	50	50	50

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1962

There were 88 notifications of infectious disease during 1962. It is pleasing to record no notified cases of dysentery, no poliomyelitis and once again no diphtheria.

MEASLES

There were 26 cases of measles notified during the year. A few of the children had quite severe illnesses but in the main there were few complications.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 20 cases of whooping cough notified. Of these, 12 had received no protection against the disease. The others had been immunised as follows:

Combined diphtheria/pertussis prophylaxis	1955	1
" " "	1956	2
" " "	1960	3
Triple diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus prophylaxis	1958	1
" " "	1959	1

These cases, however, although recognisable as whooping cough, were of a very mild type. One unprotected child of a family where some children had been immunised and some had not, suffered from serious complications and almost died. The others in the family had very mild attacks of the disease.

There is no doubt in my mind, and in the minds of most family doctors, regarding the efficiency of the protecting agent against this disease, especially for the very young.

FOOD POISONING

There was one case of food poisoning accepted during 1962 and it was an interesting and unfortunate one. A boy of 14 years had gone for a holiday to Kuwait and just before returning home he became ill. He was diagnosed as Paratyphoid fever and a culture was said to have been obtained. However, at home he was found to be a carrier of *Salmonella Infantis* which was cleared up with considerable difficulty. It can hardly be said that Blyth had any responsibility for this infection.

PNEUMONIA

There were 9 cases of this disease notified during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

There were 4 cases of this disease notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 26 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year. This disease is discussed further under Tuberculosis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1962—Age Distribution

Disease	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-25 years	26-35 years	36-45 years	46-55 years	56-65 years	Over 65 years	N.K.	Total
Measles	4	3	5	6	3	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Whooping Cough ...	—	3	1	4	1	1	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	4	—	9
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	6	2	4	3	3	3	—	26
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	5	7	6	10	4	1	14	6	8	3	6	6	5	7	—	88

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Female 28 yrs. Spine
Male ... 20 yrs. Glands of Neck

Infectious Disease and Age Distribution, 1962

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection	
					Paralytic		Non-Paralytic									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified																
Total (all ages) ...	—	—	12	8	—	—	—	—	10	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 years...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 " ...	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 " ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 " ...	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 " ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 " ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	—	—	12	8	—	—	—	—	10	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Acute Pneumonia		Small-pox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para-Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
					Infective		Post Infectious									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified :																
Total (all ages) ...	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 5 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15-44 " ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64 " ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
65 and over ...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—
	Tuberculosis															
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other											
	M	F	M	F	M	F										
Numbers originally notified :																
Total (all ages) ...	14	12	—	—	1	1										
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 5 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—										
5-14 years ...	2	2	—	—	—	—										
15-24 " ...	2	3	—	—	1	—										
25-44 " ...	4	3	—	—	—	1										
45-64 " ...	3	3	—	—	—	—										
65 and over ...	2	1	—	—	—	—										
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Total (all ages) ...	14	12	—	—	1	1										

CANCER DEATHS, 1962—Site and Age Distribution

SITE OF DISEASE	MALE						FEMALE							
	0-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	Total	0-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	Total
Hypopharynx	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stomach	...	—	—	3	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	2	5	7
Rectum	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Liver (Primary)	...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Bile Duct	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pancreas	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchus and Lung	...	—	—	—	9	13	25	—	1	—	—	2	3	6
Breast	...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	6
Cervix Uteri	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	4
Ovary	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Vulva	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Vagina	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Prostate	...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bladder	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brain	...	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Humerus	...	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fibula	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Glands	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hodgkins Disease	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Multiple Myelomata	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Myeloid Leukaemia	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Totals	...	—	—	6	14	26	46	2	3	1	4	15	16	41

Annual Returns for 10 years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pul.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Para Typhoid Fever	Malaria	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Ac. Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
1953	83	—	8	16	1	1	—	62	11	190	747	2	—	—	—	—	5	6
1954	34	—	10	14	3	12	—	44	5	73	50	—	—	1	—	—	12	—
1955	11	—	11	24	2	108	—	69	10	65	853	—	—	2	—	—	8	2
1956	12	—	2	15	1	8	—	46	6	177	63	2	—	2	—	—	7	6
1957	11	—	7	9	—	203	—	36	8	56	859	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
1958	6	—	3	5	1	11	—	14	5	144	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1959	14	—	7	10	—	12	—	32	8	6	886	—	1	—	—	—	4	1
1960	5	—	2	9	—	8	—	23	4	3	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1961	1	—	1	5	—	2	—	30	3	3	733	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1962	—	—	4	9	—	—	—	26	2	20	26	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

CANCER

Type All Causes ...			1962		1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
			46	41	38	42	50	31	44	39	37	19	55	26	42	27
			87		80		81		83		56		81		69	
Bronchogenic ...	...	...	25	6	10	4	19	4	16	3	11	1	20	1	13	1
Stomach ...	...	...	4	7	11	5	10	7	5	6	11	4	13	6	6	6
Intestine ...	...	...	—	—	7	5	6	3	11	13	3	4	5	2	7	6
Female Organs ...	...	...	—	16	—	18	—	9	—	12	—	7	—	10	—	8
Others ...	...	...	17	12	10	10	15	8	12	5	12	3	17	7	16	6

Leukaemia included from 1962

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1962 Statistics for the Borough for the Ten Years 1953-1962

Year	Popula- tion	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Death Rate
1953	34270	335	9.7	618	18.0	18	29.1	14.5
1954	34370	354	10.2	638	19.8	11	17.2	14.1
1955	34420	357	10.3	585	16.8	21	35.8	25.6
1956	34470	370	10.7	624	18.1	11	17.6	16.0
1957	34440	348	10.1	610	17.8	12	19.5	14.6
1958	34620	365	10.5	608	17.5	23	37.8	31.2
1959	34760	371	10.6	712	20.4	16	22.4	16.8
1960	35050	381	10.8	627	17.8	10	15.9	9.5
1961	35970	341	9.4	602	16.7	13	21.5	18.2
1962	36400	361	9.9	629	17.2	15	23.8	15.9

PART II—ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following section dealing with Housing, Public Health and Food and Drugs.

The duties of the Department are extremely varied and frequently complex, and I trust the report will contain matters of interest to most members.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. A. GILL, CERT. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Some 1,300 housing inspections were made, principally in connection with proposed central redevelopment, improvement grants and undertakings to repair unfit houses. See summary P. 53. There was no spectacular improvement in the housing position, the past year being of holding on pending future programming.

Slum Clearance

Towards the end of the year a survey and report was completed on a further slum clearance programme, dealing principally with properties in the area bounded by Percy, Bridge and Freehold Streets and Plessey Road, plus part of Disraeli and Gladstone Streets.

Improvement Grants

Once more a lot of time was spent, for very little return, on improvement grant enquiries. Over the years the Council have diligently tried to encourage the improvement of private houses but, with the exception of the Isabella Colliery improvement scheme (178 houses) and the Forster Memorial Homes (8 houses) the response has not been encouraging. The experience of the Council in both the above schemes was not itself an incentive, the voluminous correspondence with the Ministry by the Town Clerk and myself over a period of eighteen months on the question of payment of grant for such matters as wash-boilers,

firegrates and gas points, which ended satisfactorily for the Council; the reduction by the Ministry of the amount of grant payable in respect of the Forster Memorial Homes; the withdrawal by the National Coal Board of further modernisation schemes as a result of Ministerial opinion on their proposals; these and similar experiences show without doubt that the scheme is too complex.

It should also be realised that there is a great variety of houses of all types, age and condition, and it can be difficult to justify some item of cost and relate it to the code of practice laid down, when a query is raised by the Auditor at some distant date. Provided the work is under the control of a responsible officer who must exercise reasonable diligence and care in approving grants, the amount should be what its title suggests "Discretionary" i.e. at the complete discretion of the Local Authority subject only to the maximum imposed by the Ministry. It would still be possible for the Local Authority to follow the "Code of Practice" as recommended by the Ministry, but there the overall direction by the Minister should end. Each Authority in turn would then impose its own interpretation on which works and types of improvement should rank for grant, and the varying schemes, whether produced or approved by Local Authorities, would certainly result in improved standards. Finally, why have a "Twelve Point" or "Five Point" standard? A fixed amount on the lines of the standard grant schemes, subject to 50% of the actual cost, should be paid for any number of individual improvements. This would certainly induce owners with small capital to invest, and tenants who can only afford a small increase in rent, to improve the house by stages. It is remarkable what an incentive there is to add something extra to a house once one improvement has been made and paid for. "Hire-purchase" is part of the current way of life and what better use than to employ it in improving housing conditions? "Hire-purchase Improvement Grants" would not appear so inoperable as first thoughts might suggest.

These problems are not local, and attempts are being made to press the Government to introduce legislation which will authorise Local Authorities to carry out improvement works by compulsion. This should only be used as a last resource and, I feel, would be possible only where large scale acquisition and improvement were carried out by the Local Authority.

The blame for not carrying out improvements at present does not always lie with the owner; in some cases the tenants are unwilling or cannot afford to pay increased rent.

Existing Legislation under the Housing Act enables the Local Authority to enforce repairs and if necessary to carry out the work in default and recover the cost from the Owner, but further amendment of Section 5 of the Rent Act, 1957, would be needed to **compel** the tenant to pay the permitted increase for improvements, at present 12½%, whereas under the present system the landlord must first obtain the **consent** of the tenant.

A summary of the overall position is shown on pages 27 and 28.

Clearance, Demolition and Closing Orders, 1962

	Houses Demolished	Displacements	
		Persons	Families
Clearance Areas	—	—	—
Individual Unfit Houses, Sec. 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	28 Houses Closed	13	6
Secs. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	9	30	9
Parts of buildings closed, Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	11	38	13
	48	81	28

The total figures since 1945 are :—

	CLEARANCE AREAS		DEMOLITION ORDERS		CLOSING ORDERS		TOTAL	
	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced
1945/50	399	1,875	55	432	1	4	455	2,311
1951	139	339	2	4	10	19	151	362
1952	67	220	76	298	8	36	151	554
1953	112	362	64	194	27	120	203	676
1954	—	—	33	103	37	131	70	234
1955	—	—	22	82	21	81	43	163
1956	109	—	4	22	23	119	136	141
1957	31	3	15	74	15	59	61	136
1958	2	184	3	26	23	51	28	261
1959	57	—	4	39	29	107	90	146
1960	10	—	10	92	34	105	54	197
1961	—	—	46	23	11	52	57	75
1962	—	—	28	13	20	68	48	81
	926	2,983	362	1,402	259	952	1,547	5,337

Housing Act, 1957—Individual Unfit Houses

The following Orders became operative during the year:—

			Houses	Persons	Families
(Sec. 17)	Demolition	... ..	—	—	—
(Sec. 17)	Closing in lieu of Demolition	...	2	8	2
(Sec. 18)	Closing (parts of buildings)	...	7	25	9
			9	33	11

Representations.—1 house was represented during the year as being unfit for human habitation.

Undertakings.—The undermentioned dwellings were the subject of undertakings to repair and applications for revocation of Orders.

Address	No.	Remarks
11 Gladstone Street	1 Completed	Order revoked
9 Freehold Street	1 do.	do.
Malvin's Close Cottage	1 do.	do.
28 Disraeli Street	1 Accepted	In progress
30 Disraeli Street	1 do.	do.
31 Wellington Street	1 do.	do.
Link House, Links Road	1 Submitted	Under consideration to conversion to 3 self-contained flats.

Change of Use.—The undermentioned dwellings, subject of Closing Orders, were approved for change of use as under:—

Address	No.	Purpose
14 Croft Road	1	Conversion to Veterans' Club for Rotary Club of Blyth.
16 Croft Road	1	
1 Marine Terrace	1	

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Dwellings to Replace Slums.—Certificates of Displacement were submitted to the Borough Treasurer, the latest position being:—

Year	Individual Unfit Houses			Clearance Orders			Totals		
	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families
1955	6	21	6	—	—	—	6	21	6
1956	31	132	34	—	—	—	31	132	34
1957	35	128	36	4	5	4	39	133	40
1958	32	86	33	56	152	62	88	238	95
1959	39	116	39	11	35	12	50	151	51
1960	41	129	41	—	—	—	41	129	41
1961	28	79	29	—	—	—	28	79	29
1962	26	78	27	—	—	—	26	78	27
	238	767	345	71	192	78	309	961	323

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS—SUMMARY

APPLICATIONS

Year	Applications		Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted Grant	Owner-Occupied	Completions	
	Approved	Refused				Grant	Tenanted
1955	19	5	£ s. d. 2,641 0 0	£ s. d. 155 0 0	1	£ s. d. 120 0 0	—
1956	9	—	1,384 0 0	—	7	1,006 0 0	—
1957	186	—	334 0 0	30,264 0 0	—	—	1
1958	13	1	684 0 0	3,220 0 0	3	723 0 0	5
1959	8	1	656 0 0	437 0 0	2	220 0 0	190
1960	5	1	953 0 0	NIL	5	855 0 0	2
1961	9	3	1,322 0 0	641 0 0	3	482 0 0	1
1962	3	—	592 0 0	NIL	1	29 0 0	—
	252	11	8,566 0 0	34,717 0 0	22	3,635 0 0	199
Totals:			£ s. d. 8,566 0 0		No. 22	£ s. d. 3,635 0 0	
			34,717 0 0			33,922 0 0	
			£43,283 0 0			£37,557 0 0	

CONVERSIONS

Year	Applies, Approved	No. of Dwellings	Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted Grant	Owner-Occupied	Completions	
						Grant	Tenanted
1959	2	4	£ s. d. — — —	£ s. d. 634 0 0	—	£ s. d. — — —	—
1960	1	1	281 0 0	—	—	—	2
1961	3	3	290 0 0	447 0 0	1	281 0 0	2
1962	1	1	297 0 0	—	1	297 0 0	—
	7	9	868 0 0	1,081 0 0	2	578 0 0	4
						£ s. d. — — —	
						317 0 0	
						317 0 0	
						— — —	
						634 0 0	

STANDARD GRANTS—SUMMARY

APPLICATIONS.

Year	Approved	Refused	Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted Grant
1959	1	—	£ s. d. 115 0 0	£ s. d. —
1960	12	1	1,240 0 0	115 0 0
1961	5	—	470 0 0	155 0 0
1962	9	—	1,200 0 0	145 0 0
	27	1	£3,025 0 0	£415 0 0

COUNCIL OWNED.

1959	967
	(For provision of wash-hand basins).

COMPLETIONS.

Year	Owner-Occupied		Tenanted		Fixed Bath or Showers	Wash-Basins	Hot Water Supplies	Water Closets	Food Storage Facilities
	No.	Grant	No.	Grant					
1960	6	£ s. d. 544 15 8	—	£ s. d. —	3	3	3	5	4
1961	9	1,021 8 9	1	98 5 7	8	9	7	9	7
1962	—	—	1	113 13 8	1	1	1	1	—
	15	1,566 4 5	2	211 19 3	12	13	11	15	11

Houses for Agricultural Population

Two new houses for agricultural workers were nearing completion at Lysdon Farm, Seaton Delaval, for the Seaton Delaval Estate, and a further two were also nearing completion at North Farm, Bebside, for the National Coal Board, this being a total of fourteen new houses constructed since 1958.

The final pair of houses proposed to be built at Seaton Lodge Farm have been deferred pending a re-organisation of Farm Areas.

Housing Act, 1957

Overcrowding Licences.—The following action was taken:

Renewals issued	1
Licences refused	2

In accordance with instructions I reported on the procedure regarding investigation into and issue of Overcrowding Licences to Exceed the Permitted No. and it was recommended that no further Licences be issued.

Aluminium Bungalows.

Following discussions between the Borough Engineer and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Council agreed that proposals be prepared for the removal of the permanent and temporary bungalows, and a scheme for the erection of permanent dwellings on the bungalow sites.

Rent Act, 1957

The following table shows the action taken by the Department since the inception of the Act.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1262	Totals
1. Application by tenants ...	43	46	12	6	2	Nil	109
2. Decision not to issue Certificates	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Decision to issue							
(a) some of the defects ...	23	28	9	4	Nil	Nil	64
(b) all defects ...	16	21	3	2	2	Nil	44
4. Undertakings by Landlords							
(a) accepted ...	8	25	7	2	1	Nil	43
(b) refused ...	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
5. Certificates issued ...	24	28	5	3	1	Nil	61
6. Applications for Cancellation	2	10	10	1	Nil	3	26
7. Objections by Tenants ...	Nil	4	4	Nil	Nil	2	10
8. Cancellations Refused ...	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
9. Certificates Cancelled ...	1	12	9	1	Nil	1	24

CERTIFICATES AS TO REMEDYING OF DEFECTS

10. Applications by Tenants for Certificates of non-compliance with Undertakings:	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Total
Issued (a) Whole ...	Nil	14	4	1	Nil	Nil	19
(b) Part ...	Nil	8	7	2	Nil	Nil	17
11. Applications by Landlords for Certificates of Compliance with Undertakings:							
(a) Issued ...	Nil	7	5	1	1	Nil	14
(b) Refused ...	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for the Year ended 31st December, 1962

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—			
In Clearance Areas.			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas :—			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ...	22	12	5
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by M.O.H. ...	6	1	1
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
A2 Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed : ...	15	Nil	Nil
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—			
(8) Under Sec. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ...	9	30	9
(9) Under Secs. 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	11	38	13
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—		By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by Local Authority ...		124	Nil
(12) After formal notice under :			
(a) P.H. Acts ...		79	Nil
(b) Secs. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ...		Nil	Nil
(13) Under Sec. 24, Housing Act, 1957 ...		2	Nil

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957) :—

Position at end of Year	No. of houses	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. 1.
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation :—		
(a) under Sec. 48	Nil	Nil
(b) under Sec. 17 (2)	Nil	Nil
(c) under Sec. 46	Nil	Nil
(15) Licensed for temporary occupation under Secs. 34 or 53	Nil	Nil

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—

(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year	Nil	Nil
--	-----	-----

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

	1961		1962	
	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Unaided</i>
HOUSES COMPLETED IN 1962 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor ...	6	Nil.	63	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent—prefabricated—Contractor ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES IN PROGRESS, 31/12/62 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor ...	56	Nil.	15	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional	Nil.	176	Nil.	141
HOUSES APPROVED BY MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
	22	Nil.	62	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY COUNCIL UP TO 31/12/62 :				
Permanent Traditional	2,286	2	2,349	2
Permanent Non-traditional	150	Nil.	150	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent B.I.S.F. ...	72	Nil.	72	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent Aluminium ...	59	Nil.	59	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST WAR BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional	10	704	Nil.	845
Conversions	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSING PROVIDED UNDER THE HOUSING (TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION) ACT, 1944 :				
	150	Nil.	142	Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Part II—Sanitation and Buildings

DRAINAGE, REFUSE AND VERMINOUS PREMISES

As in previous years the following free services to the public were provided:—

Cleansing of choked drains	...	...	61
Removal of unwanted household effects (with the co-operation of the Borough Engineer's Department).	...	...	975
No. of houses treated for insect pests	...	...	253

These services, individually of little importance, collectively help in no small manner to alleviate personal household problems and to maintain a clean and tidy town.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

With the exception of the proposed dual convenience at Newsham, the reconstruction programme approved in principle in 1954 has now been completed by the Borough Engineer's Department. According to the Abstract of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1961, the revenue amounted to some £833 and the next progressive stage could be to make the conveniences free to all members of the public. This could be a worthwhile step which would be much appreciated. Loss of revenue would be partially offset by saving on the repair and replacement of expensive locks. An obvious risk which must not be overlooked is increased vandalism, but progress should not be impeded by this threat.

LICENSED PREMISES

As far back as 1949 a detailed survey was made of all licensed premises in the town and in the ensuing years 1950/3 considerable improvements were made, which were reported on at the time. Apart from systematic visits during the years, a re-survey was made in 1961 and revisits during 1962 confirm that further improvements to the sanitary accommodation are either complete or in progress. Improvements under the Food Hygiene Regulations are more extensive and these are referred to in the Food and Drugs section of this report.

Part III—Nuisances

1,913 visits were made as a result of complaints or general survey work in connection with nuisances.

Colliery Spoilbanks and Coal Disposal Points

SPOILBANKS

With the closure of the Horton Grange Colliery at the end of 1962, the deposit of colliery waste has now ceased in the district. The history of Blyth quotes "In 1794 a colliery was commenced in the adjoining township of Cowpen within one mile of the town, which at once brought a large increase in population and trade". This appears to refer to the Cowpen Colliery "A" Pit, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] From that day on the large unsightly and evil smelling mounds continued to grow, despoiling valuable agricultural land both by the deposit of the waste and the pollution of the air. It was not until 1955 that there was any marked improvement, when the National Coal Board levelled and controlled the New Delaval spoilbank, followed in 1956 by the barging of spoil to sea by the loading and conveyor system installed at Bates Colliery, which received the spoil from Bates, Isabella and Crofton Collieries.

Now, 170 years later, the problem of the disposal of the waste remains to be solved. Possible solutions—sea defences, road material or, where the heaps are inert, tree planting?

COAL DISPOSAL POINTS

The deposit of open-cast and deep mined coal again diminished, and I am once again indebted to the Area General Manager and the Regional Open-Cast Manager of the National Coal Board for the following figures of stock-piling:—

DEEP MINED	Site			Dec. 1961	Dec. 1962
				Tons	Tons
	Hathery Lane, Bebside	...	...	Cleared	Cleared
	Mill Pit Disposal Point	...	...	Cleared	Cleared
	New Delaval	...	...	79,420	Cleared
OPEN-CAST					
	Bebside Disposal Point	...	...	534,536	430,394

Part IV—Water Supply

The water supply to the Borough is obtained from three sources and the total amount consumed during the year was:—

Source of Supply	Amount Gallons	
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	390,269,000	} 428,851,000
Tynemouth Corporation Water Board	3,381,000	
National Coal Board (Hepscott)	35,201,000	

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES

Of 50 samples taken, only one, taken from the open service reservoir at Bebside, proved unsatisfactory. The Water Board were immediately notified, and a follow-up sample proved to be of satisfactory purity.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

The report of the Public Analyst on the sample submitted indicated that the water is of satisfactory organic purity, free from deposit, of good colour, free from odour or taste and is suitable for a public supply.

ANALYSIS OF WATER, 1962 CHEMICAL

Chemical Results:

Total solids dried at 180 C. ...	...
Chlorine as Chlorides ...	...
Free Ammonia ...	...
Albuminoid ammonia ...	...
Nitrogen as nitrates ...	...
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 27 C.)	...
Total hardness ...	...
Non-carbonate hardness ...	...
Carbonate hardness ...	...
Lead and Copper ...	...
Iron ...	...
Appearance and Colour ...	...
Smell and taste ...	...
Microscopical examination of deposit	...
pH Value ...	...

NAME OF SOURCE

Newcastle and Gateshead Water from
Dinsdale House, Marine Tce., Blyth.
Sample Marked I/CW/62

140 Parts per Million

12 " " "

trace

0.06 " " "

0.30 " " "

2.7 " " "

89 " " "

59 " " "

30 " " "

none

trace

Hazen degrees 15

Clear and exceedingly pale yellow.

Satisfactory

Satisfactory

6.5 Parts per Million

REPORT

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. It is free from deposit and is of good colour; it is also free from odour or taste.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.

A. HUTCHINSON.

Part V—Prevention, Treatment and Notification of Infectious Diseases

169 visits and investigations were made, principally in connection with contacts of a suspected para-typhoid case.

Part VI—Mortuaries and Post-Mortem Rooms

The mortuary was used on 35 occasions, details being:—

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Bodies</i>	<i>Post-Mortems</i>
Borough of Blyth	29	24
Bedlington Urban District Council	5	3
River Blyth Port Health Authority	1	1
	<u>35</u>	<u>28</u>

Mr. Wade, the Rodent Officer, continued his duties as part-time Mortuary attendant. When required, Mr. Allan and Mr. Cheetham have also assisted.

WATERCOURSES

No progress was made during 1962 regarding the Tynedale and Kitty Brewster watercourses, but the water taken from the Kitty Brewster source, which is understood to come principally from Horton Colliery, was in better condition than in 1961, whilst that from the Tynedale source which takes the drainage from the open-cast site, Hathery Lane, had deteriorated. For ease of comparison I have included both the 1961 and 1962 chemical analyses (See P. 36).

Further approaches were made to the Northumberland and Tyneside River Board, the Open-Cast Executive and the Northumberland County Council and at the time of preparation of the report the position was that the Chief Pollution Officer of the River Board confirmed that the National Coal Board had no plans for the use of the Bebside Coal Stocking Ground after removal of existing stocks in 1964. The National Coal Board were not as precise in their statement, in that policy had been agreed on continuing open-cast production at roughly the present level and it was not possible to say at this stage whether any particular stocking ground will or will not be required in the future. They, did, however state that they had every confidence that they would be able to implement the assurance in respect of that area of land from which arises most of the pollution of the stream.

So far as the County Council were concerned it was hoped that expenditure would be approved for piping that part of the stream which crosses the Blyth Campus site and that, if approval were granted, it would be possible to have the work carried out by the Spring.

ANALYSES OF WATER

1961/2

Chemical

1961

1962

Water from open watercourse, Tynedale Burn

Sample 1/CW/61

Sample 2/CW/62

Acidity to Methyl Orange as H ₂ SO ₄	...	...	1,421 Parts per million	3,210 Parts per million
Sulphates as SO ₃	...	...	7,786 Parts per million	6,826 „ „ „
Dissolved oxygen	...	...	None	2.5 „ „ „
pH value	...	...	2.3	2.8

REPORT

This sample of water is highly acid with sulphuric acid, and it would be wise, therefore to prevent children from playing about with the water.

This water is detrimental to fish-life and should not be allowed into a watercourse.

REPORT

This sample of water is very highly acid with sulphuric acid — more than twice the acidity of the sample examined in March of last year (1/CW/61). The water would be lethal to fish life and in its present condition must not be allowed access to a watercourse.

Water from Kitty Brewster Watercourse before joining Tynedale Burn

Sample 2/CW/61

Sample 3/CW/62

Acidity to Methyl Orange as H ₂ SO ₄	...	...	118 Parts per million	None
Sulphates as SO ₃	...	...	1,749 Parts per million	1,921 Parts per million
Dissolved oxygen	...	...	None	None
pH value	...	...	2.8	4.7

REPORT

This sample of water is less acid than the 1C sample, but it is nevertheless distinctly acid and children should not be allowed access to it.

This water is detrimental to fish-life and should not be allowed into a watercourse.

REPORT

This sample of water is free from acidity when methyl orange is used as the indicator, and it is therefore in better condition than the samples examined in March, 1961. (2/CW/61).

W. GORDON CAREY.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The position in the Borough at the end of 1962 was as follows:—

Authorised Sites—

- Link House Gardens, Blyth (Holiday Site). ... Existing planning permission expires 31st December, 1966.
New planning and site licence applications for extension of existing site awaiting County Planning decision.
New permanent dual toilet block constructed.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. Link House Filling Station
(Touring caravans only). | Planning permission expired 30th September, 1962. Site still in use at end of year. Awaiting County Planning enforcement for non-compliance. |
| 3. Old Pottery, South Newsham
(Permanent Residential)
(Thirty Caravans) | Planning permission issued 15th June, 1962, superseding permission dated 9th March, 1962. Stationing of residential caravans for period ending 31st December, 1971. Site Licence dated 9th March, 1962, issued by Blyth Borough Council. |
| 4. High House Farm, Bebside
(One residential caravan) | Planning permission issued 9th February, 1962, to expire 31st December, 1964. Site Licence dated 21st February, 1962, issued by Blyth Borough Council. |
| 5. Malvin's Close
(Permanent Residential)
(Eight Caravans) | Planning permission issued 14th September, 1962, to expire 31st December, 1967. Site Licence dated 18th September, 1962, issued by Blyth Borough Council. |

Unauthorised Sites—

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 6. Furnace Road, Bebside ... | 12 Caravans transferred from North Farm, Cowpen Road, January, 1962.
No official planning permission.
On 27th November, 1962, at Blyth Magistrates Court, owner of land fined £40 for permitting land to be used as a caravan site without being the holder of a site licence issued by the Blyth Borough Council.
Caravan dwellers under notice to quit. |
|------------------------------|--|

Proposed Sites—

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 7. South Newsham | The provision of a caravan site owned and operated by the Council was still under review. |
|-------------------------|---|

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FURNACES

Prior Approval:— Secs. 3 and 6.—There were no applications for prior approval.

New Installations.—

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Type of Heating</i>
1. United Omnibus Offices, ... Post Office Square.	Under-floor Electric
2. Craft Cleaners Ltd., Trotter Street.	Stone-Vapour Oil-Fired Boiler.
3. Yard and Staithmaster's Office, Quayside.	Diplomat 150 Gas Fired Central Heating.

Replacements and Improvements.—

1. Star Foundry, Morpeth Road.	Coal Fired mobile crane converted to Oils Fired.
2. Blyth Harbour Commissioners, South Harbour.	do.
3. Messrs. Pitwood Ltd., Links Road.	Two coal-fired mobile cranes converted to Oil-Fired.
4. T. Stephenson and Son, Quayside.	New Diesel Crane provided.
5. Newsham and New Delaval Social Club.	Coke-Fired Sectional Boiler replaced by Ideal "Elite" Gas Fired Boiler.

Discontinued.—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. National Coal Board, | Two Farrar Vertical Boilers Coal Fired. |
| Horton Colliery. | Three Hodgkinson Lancashire Boilers Coal Fired. |

Pending.—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Blyth Harbour Commissioners | One Diesel Locomotive in lieu of coal burning loco. For delivery 1963. |
| 2. T. Stephenson and Son, | Coal-Fired Mobile crane for conversion to oil burning—1963. |
| 3. G. & N. Wright Ltd., | Coal-Fired Mobile crane for conversion to oil burning—1963/4. |
| Wensleydale Terrace. | |
| 4. Blyth Co-operative Society Ltd., | Two Automatic Coal Fired Vertical Boilers |
| Aldborough Street Dairy. | to be replaced by Oil-Fired. |

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

After an interval of three years approval was given for a re-survey of Seaton Sluice with the intention of considering again whether a policy of smoke control was to be adopted in the Borough. During the period 1959 to 1962, the area under review had more than doubled due to private development by Messrs. Gofton and Reid. Apart from receiving and giving essential information, I was constantly met with statements "But I thought this already was a smokeless zone". "I was told when I bought the house it was going to be a smokeless zone" and the question "Why wasn't it made a smokeless zone before we bought the house?" An opportunity had been lost and new problems created by not proceeding after the 1959 survey.

It was evident from the opinions expressed there had been a considerable change of heart—in 1959 39.5% had a definite objection and if those with no particular opinion were included the figure was 52%, but in 1962 only 18.3% had a definite objection and, including those with no firm opinion, the figure was 29.4%.

It was noticeable that, as with all improvements, the younger population groups were in favour on the grounds of cleanliness, not only of the air but in the home and labour saving, the majority of objectors, but not all, being the older person with an inherent distaste for change.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

The usual routine visits were made under the Shops, Factories, Pets, Rag Flock, and other miscellaneous legislation and, where required, the attention of owners or occupiers drawn to defaults.

General Services.—In addition to the free services listed on P. 32, 90 dogs were humanely destroyed at a charge of 2s. 6d. per animal.

Training of Students.—At the request of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Health Department and the College of Further Education, a number of visits were made to the Cowpen Sewerage Works and Composting Plant and to the Blyth Co-operative Society Bakery, Newcastle Road.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for his valuable help and to the Manager of the Bakery for not only the facilities given, but also for the unfailing hospitality shown the students.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Details of the work of the Rodent Officer are shown on P. 42. The value of this work performed by Mr. Wade is not shown in the bare statistics but, without question, a great improvement has taken place since the appointment was first made. Year after year, steady, unspectacular, routine work goes on—twice yearly sewer treatments, test baiting, regular and concentrated treatment of the refuse tips, survey and treatment of the farms and other agricultural premises in the district, together with treatment of commercial, industrial and residential properties.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of		
		Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	20	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	121	33	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises)	8	8	—	—
Total ...	149	42	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	To H.M. In-spector. (4)	By H.M. In-spector. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...					
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for Sexes...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...					
Total ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Factories, 1962

	Mechanical Power	No. Mechanical Power
Bakeries	12	—
Blacksmith	1	—
Boat Building & Repairs	1	—
Boiler Scaling	1	—
Boot and Shoe Repairers	4	—
Building Operations	8	—
Cabinet Making	—	1
Car Spraying and Coachwork	4	—
Clothing Alterations	—	3
Clothing Repairs	—	1
Clothing Manufacturers	5	—
Composting	1	—
Cooked Fish Preparations	1	—
Cooked Meat Products and Sausage	11	1
Coppersmiths	1	—
Corn Grinders	1	—
Cycle Repairs	1	—
Dairies	1	—
Dry Cleaners	2	—
Electrical Engineers	1	—
Electro-plating	1	—
Engineering	4	—
Fibre Glass & Plastics	2	—
Foundry	2	—
Gas Works	1	—
Ice-cream Manufacturers	6	—
Joinery, Stone-crushing Establishments	8	3
Locomotive Repairs	1	—
Machine Repairs	1	—
Manufacturing Chemist	1	—
Marine Store and Timber	1	—
Motor Vehicle Repairs	17	—
Pickles	1	—
Plumbers	1	2
Polishing	—	2
Potato Crisps	1	—
Printing	3	—
Radio and Electrical Repairs	—	4
Roller Conveyors	1	—
Saddlery and Harness	—	1
Sculptor	1	—
Shipbuilding and Repairs	1	—
Sheet Metal and Welding	1	—
Sign Writing	—	1
Slaters and Tilers	—	1
Slaughtering	1	—
Soft Drinks and Bottling	1	—
Spring Mattresses	1	—
Sugar Confectionery	1	—
Timber Impregnation	1	—
Timber Merchants	5	—
Transformer Stations	1	—
T.V. Repairs	4	—
Tyre Retreading	1	—
Upholstery	2	—
	129	20

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Water Sampling

The following water samples were taken during the year for analysis.

CHEMICAL

Name of Source		Sample Taken					No. of Samples
1.	Newcastle and Gateshead Water	"Dinsdale", Marine Terrace, Blyth					1
2.	Tynedale Watercourse ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
3.	Kitty Brewster Watercourse ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
							3

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Source	No. of samples	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
1. Newcastle and Gateshead Water	12	11	1	—	—
2. Hepscott Water before chlorination	13	11	2	—	—
3. Mixed Newcastle and Hepscott Water after chlorination	13	11	1	1	—
4. Tynemouth Water	12	11	1	—	—
	50	44	5	1	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During 1962 the following treatments were carried out by the Rodent Officer.

Description	No.	Baits laid	Traps laid	Ozs. Poison bait taken	No. of Bodies		Est. Kill Rats	No. of Visits
					Rats	Mice		
Dwellinghouses	115	443	7	236	3	54	6	239
Gardens	34	103	2	351	28	6	96	115
Allotments	13	90	—	940	88	—	311	51
Food Shops	23	387	—	136	4	29	11	57
Other Shops	2	32	—	15	—	2	2	6
Stables	2	20	—	150	10	—	50	14
Warehouses	3	72	—	25	—	2	4	8
Schools	9	236	—	55	—	10	1	19
N.C.B. Property	4	78	—	92	4	4	24	12
Council Properties	16	675	—	1,883	199	2	807	54
Bakeries	3	46	2	8	—	4	—	8
Business Premises	3	91	—	127	9	4	40	13
Clubs	4	59	—	23	—	7	—	10
Farms	3	280	—	368	97	—	282	12
Fire Station	1	20	—	6	—	1	—	2
Cafe	1	3	—	6	1	—	2	4
Public Houses	2	60	—	17	—	3	—	4
Slaughterhouse	1	3	—	7	1	—	2	3
Churches	2	26	—	10	—	1	—	4
Ditch	1	20	—	75	3	—	25	5
Cinemas	2	160	—	25	—	7	—	4
Garage	1	30	—	9	—	4	—	2
Harbour Walls	1	20	—	112	4	—	37	4
Totals	246	2,954	11	4,676	451	140	1,700	650

In addition to the above treatments the following surveys were carried out.

Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural Premises	Business Premises
31	57	41	235

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Once again regular attention was given to the food traders, a total of nearly 1,800 inspections being made. Restaurants and snack bars appeared to be worst hit by the bad summer. The Miniature Golf Hut was closed for most of the season, the Beach Road Snack Bar was opened only on intermittent occasions, the Beach Corner Cafe appeared to be little used. Owing to reconstruction of new garage premises the Post Office Square Snack Bar was demolished and another closure at the year end was the Barrakka Hotel which opened in 1960. Altogether a bad year for the purveyor of food for immediate consumption.

Increased attention was again given to licensed premises, and following the special effort of some years ago to improve the hygiene and general facilities of these premises it was pleasing to note that nearly all are now provided with the required equipment in accordance with the Hygiene Regulations, and a fairly high standard of sanitary accommodation has also been installed. As a result of co-operation by the respective Breweries, further improvements in the provision of additional wash-hand basins, new drainers, additional sanitary accommodation, electric sump pumps for cellar drainage and internal and external redecoration were either complete or in hand by the year end.

New Premises.—The following newly constructed food premises were opened during the year:—

Broadway Circle	...	...	...	Messrs. Moores Stores Ltd., Grocery and Provisions—Self Service.
do.				Embleton's Bakeries trading as Marshalls. Retail Bakers.
do.				Messrs. Davison and Espie Greengrocery and Fruiterers.
Post Office Square	...	...	...	United Automobile Services—Staff Canteen.
do.				Messrs. Finlay's—Sugar Confectionery Kiosk.
2 Swaledale Court, Cowpen			...	Mr. David and Mrs. Norma Adams, Newsagent and Sugar Confectionery.
3. do.				Embleton's Bakeries trading as Marshalls. Retail Bakers.
6. do.				Mr. and Mrs. D. Foster, Fried Fish and Potatoes.

Reconstructed Premises.—The following were reconstructed and refitted:—

3 Coomassie Road	...	...	Messrs. R. L. Soulsby—Butchering. (Formerly Embleton's Bakeries).
10 Turner Street	...	...	Atkinson Bros.—Greengrocer and Fruiterers. (Formerly Harton Dyers).
22 do.			Brouchs Ltd.—Grocery and Provisions, Extension of Self-Service. (Formerly Meadow Dairy Ltd.).
30. do.			Blyth Co-operative Society Ltd.—Greengrocery and Fruiterers. (Formerly Electrical Department).
75 Waterloo Road	...	...	Embleton's (Trading as Marshalls) Formerly Soulsby.

As a result of co-operation between the Department and the developers, both the new and reconstructed premises have all the requisite facilities as required by the Hygiene Regulations, and the fittings and fitments are of the latest design and of a high standard.

Closures.—The undermentioned were closed during the year:—

21A Carlton Street	...	...	Mr. R. Laws, Grocery and Provisions.
6/8 Hilyard Street	...	...	Mr. T. Allan—Coffee Club.
16 Keelmans Terrace	...	...	Blyth Co-operative Society—Grocery and Provisions.
2 Nordale Way	...	...	Mr. W. Butcher—General Dealer.
3 do.	...	...	Mrs. H. Nixon—Fried Fish and Potatoes.
4/5 Nordale Way	...	...	Blyth Co-operative Society—Grocery and Provisions
6 do.			Mr. C. E. Robertson—General Dealer.
Post Office Square	...	...	United Automobile Services—Staff Canteen.
do.			Mr. G. Cafferkey—Snack Bar.
3 Wanley Street	...	...	Mr. G. Cunningham—Grocery and Provisions
53 Woodbine Terrace	...	...	Blyth Co-operative Society—Grocery and Provisions.
6 Turner Street	...	...	Atkinson Bros.—Greengrocery and Fruiterers
Beaconsfield Street	...	...	Mr. M. Bugeja—Barrakka Hotel.

FOOD PREMISES

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions the following information is given regarding food premises in the Borough.

Bakeries	...	...	6	Greengrocery	...	...	14
Combined Bakeries and Retail Shops	...	...	6	Grocery and Provisions	...	...	47
Retail Bakery	...	...	8	Hotels	...	...	2
Butchers	...	...	20	Ice-Cream Manufacturers	...	...	2
Cooked Meats	...	...	7	Licensed Premises	...	...	43
Departmental Stores	...	...	3	Licensed Clubs	...	...	23
Factory Canteens	...	...	6	Off Licenses	...	...	16
Fish Fryers	...	...	15	Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	...	1
Food Manufacturers	...	...	2	Restaurants, Cafeterias and Snack Bars	...	...	12
Food Warehouses	...	...	3	School Kitchens	...	...	4
General Dealers	...	...	65	Sugar Confectionery	...	...	25
				Wet Fish	...	...	1

a total of 331

REGISTRATIONS

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Act are as follows:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	12
Butchers	...	...	...	...	20
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	8
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	15
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	2
Ice-Cream Retailers	...	...	...	...	127
Preserved Food	...	...	...	...	2

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The principal licensing authority is now the Northumberland County Council but co-operation is maintained and milk bottles were collected and forwarded monthly to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
61	14	8	83

These are the best figures ever achieved and the unsatisfactory results only arose during the latter part of the year. Immediate test samples gave satisfactory results.

Samples of Pasteurised Milk taken from the dairy by the County Health Inspector gave the following results:—

	METHYLENE BLUE TEST		PHOSPHATASE TEST		Total Samples
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
Tuberculin Tested ...	2	1	—	—	3
T.T. Pasteurised (Auto. Vending Machine)	3	3	6	—	12
Pasteurised ...	37	1	38	—	76
	42	5	44	—	91

All the samples satisfied the Phosphatase Test which is indicative of the efficiency of pasteurisation. Of the five Methylene Blue samples which are indicative of the keeping quality, three were from Automatic Vending Machines.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1959

There are only two ice cream manufacturers in the Borough one of whom prepares Cold Mix only (See Page 48 Annual Report, 1961).

It is pleasing to report that the fourteen samples obtained were all Grade 1.

The principal manufacturers are A. Seghini, who during the year revised the production equipment and office, resulting in considerably improved layout and factory hygiene. The company have also purchased three new motor vehicles fully fitted with the latest equipment for the storage and service of ice-cream. Apart from the new style refrigerated containers which are recharged electrically every evening, the constant hot water service is maintained by utilising engine heat instead of earlier thermos systems or gas units, and the vans have been designed so that soft ice-cream production and service units may be installed if required. A feature of interest to the Road Safety Committee is the provision of a large size driving mirror running the full width of the cab in front of the driver, giving an unobstructed view of the low-line rear window, plus a large lettered warning on the rear of the vehicles advising motorists of the presence of children. In addition to the new vehicles the existing motor fleet of three vehicles has been reduced to two, the vans have been improved and the tricycles have been withdrawn from service but are being kept in reserve.

It is gratifying to know that once again the company obtained the Diploma of the Ice Cream Alliance for ice-cream quality and that Mr. J. Seghini has been a Member of the National Executive Council of the Alliance since 1960.

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE ACT, 1958

In accordance with instructions the Borough Engineer prepared a series of working drawings and submitted a detailed estimate for the renovation of the Slaughterhouse, Plessey Road, and these were submitted to and considered by the Health Committee. Following this a series of informal meetings was held between the Blyth Meat Traders' Association, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and myself, culminating in an offer on behalf of the Association to pay a maximum annual rental of £1,800 per annum (present rental £375), requesting that the Council consider the construction of new premises rather than modernise the existing, and offering to take new premises on a tenancy on similar terms to the present Agreement.

In the absence of any formal agreement to take the tenancy for a specified number of years to cover outlay and maintenance, this offer was unacceptable to the Council

and an alternative by the Blyth Co-operative Society to take over in entirety the existing premises was accepted in principle and was under discussion at the time of preparation of this report.

In view of the possible sale to and modernisation of the slaughterhouse by the Blyth Co-operative Society, the Minister formally extended the period by which the premises must comply with the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1959, from 1st January, 1963, to 1st January, 1964.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

Meat Inspection.—Slaughtering took place on 242 days during 1962, necessitating 486 visits to the Abattoir by the Inspectors.

Details of slaughtering, meat inspection and overtime are given on pages 48 and 49.

Hours of Slaughtering.—In order to obtain 100% meat inspection it was necessary to work overtime on 111 days out of 242 (46%) and in addition slaughtering took place on three Saturdays and six Sundays including Easter and Whit and August Sunday.

Animal Health.—Of the 11,387 animals slaughtered, nine sheep and four pig carcasses and organs were entirely condemned which is a continuation of the high standard of meat purveyed in the town and the principal reason why slaughtering facilities should be retained.

Condemned Meat.—The total weight of carcasses, meat and organs found to be unsound was 3 tons, 2 cwts. 3 qrs. and 12 lbs., the method of disposal being collection not less than twice weekly by Messrs. Tyneside Butchers Bye-Products Ltd., who recover animal feeding stuffs, fertilisers, glues, fats and chemicals. Manure is collected twice weekly by the Borough Engineer's Department for horticultural purposes.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS

A case of swine fever was diagnosed at the Slaughterhouse, Plessey Road on the 8th May, 1962, and subsequently confirmed by the Ministry. Appropriate action in accordance with the Swine Fever Order of 1938 was carried out, the carcase being destroyed by burying in lime, after which the premises were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected under the supervision of the Health Department. Restrictions were withdrawn on the 10th May.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemed

Form D.S. 97727/1

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,034	104	2	5,767	3,480
Number inspected	2,034	104	2	5,767	3,480
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	9	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	259	25	—	19	149
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.24	24.0	—	0.5	4.4
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	0.05	—	—	—	0.7
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Animals Slaughtered—Summary, 1962

Month	Bulls	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total 1962	Total 1961
January	—	126	64	12	—	489	300	991	942
February... ..	—	120	39	7	—	398	324	888	851
March	—	134	37	7	—	401	323	902	926
April	—	124	48	6	—	342	309	829	779
May	1	133	49	6	2	305	293	789	935
June	—	123	33	11	—	387	204	758	754
July	—	134	42	12	—	672	209	1069	1081
August	—	123	42	7	—	651	226	1049	1088
September	—	118	39	7	—	583	257	1004	1016
October	—	139	50	11	—	624	321	1145	1212
November	—	118	45	8	—	515	302	988	1136
December	—	116	37	10	—	400	412	975	935
Total 1962	1	1508	525	104	2	5767	3480	11387	
2140									
Totals 1961	5	1448	507	117	—	6366	3212		11655
2077									
1962	Sows	Boars	Tups	Ewes	All included in totals of Summary				
	—	4	1	175					
1961	348	—	3	200					

It was found necessary to condemn the following entire carcasses:—

	Reason for Condemnation	Weight in lbs.
Sheep	Emaciation	20
"	"	28
"	Oedema and Emaciation	22
"	Septic Arthritis, Traumatism	69
"	Emaciation and Oedema	58
"	Septic Pneumonia and Arthritis	56
Pig	Pyæmia	94
"	Swine Fever	150
"	Benign Tumour	48
"	Swine Fever	120

The following part carcasses and organs were found to be unfit:—

	No.	Weight in lbs.	
Cattle	345	4,346	} 6,375
Sheep	26	320	
Pigs	174	1,709	

Details of Slaughtering, 1962

	Slaughtering Days	Overtime Days	Hours	Saturdays	Sundays	Bank Holidays	Inspections
January ...	21	10	10	—	—	—	40
February ...	20	6	6	—	—	—	36
March ...	22	7	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	34
April ...	20	10	10	—	1	—	35
					Easter		
May ...	23	10	10	—	—	—	51
June ...	22	8	8	1	1	—	37
					Whit.		
July ...	21	12	12	—	1	—	44
August ...	18	7	7	—	1	—	31
					August		
September ...	16	10	10	—	—	—	37
October ...	19	11	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	50
November ...	18	7	7	—	—	—	46
December ...	22	13	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	2	—	45
	242	111	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	6	—	486

UN SOUND FOOD

The undermentioned complaints as to unsatisfactory or unsound foodstuffs were attended to during the year:—

1. Foreign Body (thorn?) in Fruit Pudding. Manufacturers notified.
2. Contaminated cakes purchased outside district. Local Authority notified.
3. Unsound Potato Crisps. Manufacturers notified.

4. Insect in Imported Canned Meat. Insect identified by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as belonging to the species *Onthophagus sinuosicollis*, being native to East Africa and no doubt introduced at the production stage.
5. Contaminated Canned Apple. Tins submitted for examination to manufacturers of containers. Detinning within permitted limit.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered and destroyed:—

				Boxes	Tins	Jars	Lbs.	Pkts.
Fruit	...	...	...	—	2,139	—	—	—
Meat	...	...	...	—	1,561	—	237½	—
Fish	...	...	...	—	317	—	—	—
Milk	...	...	...	—	713	—	—	—
Puddings	...	...	...	—	470	—	—	—
Preserves	...	...	...	—	25	19	—	—
Vegetables	...	...	...	—	2,048	—	—	—
Soup	...	...	...	—	600	—	—	—
Cereals	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	71
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	—	93	—	—	—
Paste	...	...	...	—	—	5	—	—
Bacon	...	...	...	—	—	—	138	—
Cheese	...	...	...	1	—	—	7	—
Coffee	...	...	...	—	5	—	—	—
Beef	...	...	...	—	—	—	200	—

ANNUAL REPORT, 1962

Number of inspections made during the year 1962		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(a) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936															
Inspections following complaints—															
General		90	45	44	21	38	36	25	29	32	21	16	18	415	
Re inspections <i>re</i> outstanding															
Notices		57	84	53	58	54	49	10	46	61	36	31	6	545	
Dirty or Verminous Premises		37	17	7	7	17	21	22	4	22	18	19	11	202	
Drainage		33	30	16	18	8	19	18	9	12	11	13	5	192	
Holiday Accommodation				18										18	
Keeping of Animals		1	2		4	1		2		3	4	10		27	
Licensed Premises ...		7		1	28	4	5		2		3	1	2	51	
Mortuary		1					5		2					10	
Piggeries		1			2		5			6	2	2	1	14	
Places of Public Entertainment					2	2	1							5	
Public Conveniences					2		8	1					1	10	
Refuse Tips		1	3		2	5	3	2	1	4		2		23	
Vacant Sites		10	5	8	5	2	8	8	5			4	6	61	
Watercourses		4	1		1		1					3	2	12	
Water Supplies							2			2				4	
Miscellaneous		28	23	15	16	10	12	9	7	18	7	12	19	176	
Sewer treatment (Manholes)								148						148	
														1,913	1,913
(b) AGRICULTURE (WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT															
Farms		1					1							2	
														2	1,915
(c) CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960															
Sites		35	9	12	19	9	14	8	9	26	13	21	11	186	
														186	2,101

[illegible]

Number of inspections made during the year 1962		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(i)	PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951 Investigations made	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	5	3,067
(j)	SHOPS ACT, 1950 Sanitary and other arrangements in Shops	10	11	3	3	—	2	1	1	18	12	11	3	75	
(k)	HOUSING ACT, 1957 Investigations <i>re</i> overcrowding, applications, etc	10	16	2	6	2	3	7	8	11	5	1	8	79	3,142
	Houses in Clearance Areas Corporation Houses	30	20	3	5	8	1	4	9	23	14	8	3	128	
	Housing Survey	2	—	—	3	—	2	—	5	3	6	16	18	55	
	Complaints <i>re</i> unfit Houses Proposed House Purchase	7	3	5	8	8	13	2	—	8	5	2	3	64	
		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3,473
														331	
<i>Part II</i>															
	Individual unfit Houses	8	13	13	7	12	18	16	7	10	10	12	23	149	
	Undertakings	3	8	12	7	10	15	16	5	1	6	3	7	93	
	Miscellaneous	3	7	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	25	
														267	3,740
<i>Part III</i>															
	Clearance Areas	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	
	Redevelopment Areas	—	—	—	14	1	3	5	13	2	207	108	1	354	4,101
(l)	HOUSING ACTS, 1958 & 1959 Improvement Grants	26	20	20	41	20	25	16	18	22	23	16	23	270	
	Agricultural Dwellings	4	—	4	1	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	15	4,386
														285	

Number of inspections made during the year 1962		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(m)	RENT ACT, 1957 Certificate of Disrepair ...	3	11	10	7	4	5	5	6	9	9	—	4	73	73
(n)	FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 Abattoir—Meat inspection ...	40	36	34	35	51	37	44	31	37	50	46	45	486	4,459
	" —alterations ...	5	5	—	1	1	9	14	48	16	8	—	4	113	
	Bakehouses ...	7	12	7	2	2	1	2	6	2	—	4	2	47	
	Bakery and Confectionery Shops ...	—	3	13	1	3	—	1	—	2	2	3	—	28	
	Butchers' Shops ...	1	8	12	11	6	4	—	2	10	11	20	2	87	
	Canteens and Snack Bars ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	8	
	Fish and Chip Shops ...	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	3	3	8	—	22	
	Food Manufacturing Premises ...	2	—	—	2	—	3	1	1	3	4	—	—	16	
	Food Vehicles ...	3	5	5	15	4	6	6	3	3	4	6	3	63	
	General Dealer Shops ...	2	4	24	6	39	1	4	—	2	4	5	1	92	
	Greengrocery Shops ...	—	1	3	1	7	2	3	—	—	7	1	1	26	
	Grocery and Provision Shops ...	5	12	19	15	14	1	1	—	7	18	4	2	98	
	Ice-Cream Premises:														
	(a) manufacturing ...	1	2	1	6	5	2	3	2	2	—	—	—	24	
	(b) retail ...	—	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	15	
	Market Stalls ...	29	10	10	14	18	36	37	5	16	5	31	42	253	
	Preserved Food Premises ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	
	Restaurants and Cafes ...	1	6	4	6	—	1	1	—	3	10	3	6	41	
	Unsound Food Examination ...	7	10	8	7	10	10	9	3	9	14	10	8	105	
	Wet Fish Shops ...	1	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	6	
	Miscellaneous (Food Hygiene Regs.)	10	11	5	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	37	
															1,570
(o)	MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS Dairies and Equipment ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	6,029
														12	6,041

Number of inspections made during the year 1962															Grand Total
(p)	SAMPLING: Chemical	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	6,046
	(a) Water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3	
	(b) Fly Ash	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
	Bacteriological:													4	
	(a) Milk Bottles	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	12	6	6	6	78	
	(b) Water	4	4	4	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	50	
	(c) Ice-Cream	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	4	3	—	—	—	14	
	(d) Faeces	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	42	2	—	50	
	(e) Sputum	2	3	—	1	6	2	—	—	3	2	—	2	21	
(q)	MISCELLANEOUS													213	6,258
	Miscellaneous inspections and inter-														
	views	7	14	11	12	8	—	—	6	13	6	5	—	82	
	No. of informal Notices served	25	7	20	5	7	1	5	2	10	1	5	7	95	
	" Statutory " " " " " "	19	24	14	2	8	10	—	—	7	—	—	3	87	
	" " houses and buildings treated for eradication of insect pests	10	7	9	15	40	41	20	32	21	29	22	7	253	975
	No. of items of bedding, clothing, etc. destroyed by request	45	66	96	63	130	80	91	102	70	102	65	65	975	
	Choked drains cleansed	8	7	3	1	2	5	4	10	7	5	4	5	61	
	Informal Notices complied	40	3	11	4	2	—	3	2	6	—	—	2	1,553	7,811
	Statutory " " " " " "	10	18	12	8	14	—	14	5	6	1	—	6	73	
														94	7,978
(r)	LAND CHARGES ACT													167	
	Searches	37	34	34	31	25	42	44	48	33	30	25	11	394	8,372
														394	

